

A new year always brings with it new hope and new resolve, and such is the case for Habitat for Humanity Newark. 2011 will mark our 25th year of building affordable housing that hard-working partner families can call home. There is no better time to reaffirm our commitment to our mission and our ministry.

2010 was a difficult year for many, but that only means that we as an organization have the opportunity to do even more good. We have accomplished much in our twenty five years, and we have much to celebrate, (which we will!) But we have only scratched the surface.



Last year, I had the pleasure of getting to know Katina Leak, a member of one of our partner families. She shared with me the struggles she went through after a job loss. Listening to how Habitat helped to get her through some tough times reminded me why it is our organization does what it does. Houses are more than a place to live. They are about connections—connections to community, connections to people. In 2011, we are hoping to make even more of those connections with our plan for eleven in '11.

Habitat for Humanity Newark is set to work to provide eleven new homes in 2011. It is a lofty goal, yes, but one I believe in whole-heartedly. There are so many reasons for hope this new year. With the Board's help, we have identified new funding sources, and we have already acquired new properties. We will continue building traditional single-family homes from the ground up, as well as two-family dwellings such as the one we recently broke ground on in West Orange. In addition, the Neighborhood stabilization Program #2 marks a return to doing rehabilitation projects. Habitat Newark has plans for rehabilitating homes in the ironbound section of Newark and an eight-unit condo building near West Side Park. I am committed to each and every project. As you can see, eleven in '11 is definitely on its way!

We have accomplished much in our twenty-five years, but we can always, *should* always strive to do more. With your help, we can see eleven in '11 through to fruition; we can accomplish our goals and expand our ministry. So Happy New Year to all of our friends of Habitat. May it be happy, healthy, and prosperous for us all.